



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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August 7, 2008

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *Jef. Fielding*  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON METHAMPHETAMINE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES PLAN**

This is to provide a status report on the Department of Public Health's (DPH) methamphetamine (MA) prevention and treatment services plan. As you know, in Fiscal Year 2007-08 DPH was funded at the level of \$750,000 for Countywide methamphetamine (MA) prevention services, and \$1 million in Third District funds for treatment services located in the District, but available to residents Countywide.

## **PREVENTION SERVICES**

Prevention Services for Young Women -- Total funding for this plan component is \$250,000. The Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) amended contracts for 13 existing community-based drug prevention and early intervention programs with established relationships with youth, schools, communities, and other organizations serving young women. In addition to education and prevention activities, these programs are creating a strategic prevention plan for young women. These prevention services began implementation on January 15, 2008.

Between January and June 2008, ADPA and its prevention programs conducted community needs assessment surveys and focus groups with young women, conducted outreach and community education town hall meetings and youth conferences at local high schools and community colleges, and distributed educational fact sheets for parents and school personnel through the Los Angeles County Office of Education website. ADPA also conducted training sessions for contracted providers on MA-specific prevention approaches and on project data collection and reporting.

Prevention Services for Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) -- Total funding for this component is \$250,000. The Office of AIDS Programs and Policy (OAPP) has contracted with Friends Research Institute to conduct an evidence-based bio-behavioral prevention intervention (post-exposure prophylaxis with contingency management) targeting HIV-negative MA-using gay, bisexual, and other MSM. This demonstration project implements a state-of-the-art intervention and, if proven effective, could be replicated throughout Los Angeles County. The project is currently under review by the Institutional Review Board and awaits approval to begin recruitment of participants.

Community Level Prevention Services – The total funding for this component is \$180,000. OAPP funded eight community coalitions (one in each Service Planning Area), and one agency to provide overall coordination, by augmenting contracts with existing providers. The coalitions have developed mission statements, identified specific at-risk populations within their communities, and formed subcommittees to further delineate activities. In addition, the coalitions have conducted outreach at various events throughout Los Angeles County and distributed educational brochures with MA information and resources. Trainings have been conducted for community and coalition members on MA use and abuse and on population-specific prevention approaches.

Education, Training and Technical Assistance – The total funding for this component is \$50,000. Thirteen community coalition trainings emphasizing signs and symptoms of methamphetamine use and resources for the community have been conducted throughout the County to date. Specific topics include methamphetamine use among women, youth and gay men, and effective approaches to serve affected individuals.

Program Evaluation – The total funding for this component is \$20,000. A report about the effectiveness of services provided will be developed in Fall 2009 and will analyze data from January 2008 through June 2009.

## **TREATMENT SERVICES**

Treatment Services for Young Women – Total funding for this component is \$475,000. Of this amount, \$360,000 has been allocated to residential treatment services, and \$115,000 has been allocated to outpatient treatment services. ADPA amended contracts for five existing residential treatment programs at approximately \$72,000 each and for four outpatient treatment programs at approximately \$29,000 each, all with service delivery sites in the Third District. These programs implemented MA-specific treatment services for young women that address developmental and gender-specific issues consistent with evidence-based best practices.

The total number of contracted treatment services for the first year was projected at 47 residential beds and 112 outpatient slots. As of June 30, 2008, treatment providers reported that 62 young women had been admitted to residential programs, and 42 had been admitted to outpatient programs.

The higher proportion of persons admitted to residential programs underscores the severity among young women with MA problems and the overall high demand for drug addiction treatment programs. Although the first year's planned number of residential beds has already been exceeded, ADPA is using other funding streams to expand availability of residential services for young women. The number of young women accessing outpatient programs is expected to steadily increase as community awareness of the availability of these services increases. However, if the demand for outpatient services does not increase while high demand for residential services continues, ADPA will redirect funding accordingly.

Treatment Services for MSM – Total funding for this component is \$475,000. OAPP funded three programs, all located in the Third District at approximately \$158,000 each. The programs implemented a comprehensive, individualized system of care designed specifically to address the distinctive needs of high-risk, MA-using HIV-negative MSM. The programs provide a combination of residential and high-intensity outpatient MA treatment services to reduce the risk of HIV infection. Programs are implementing evidence-based models of interventions proven to be effective with this population.

In addition, the evaluation component has been developed with consultation from the Institute for Community Health Research, the Evaluation Research Department at Claremont Graduate University, the University of California at Los Angeles, the DPH HIV Epidemiology Program and OAPP's Planning and Research Division to determine outcomes for this unique program. OAPP's data collection instrument has been updated with additional indicators to adequately track clients and their outcomes.

All programs reported operating at full capacity, and 20 clients have been served as of June 30, 2008.

Training, Education and Technical Assistance – Total funding for this component is \$50,000. Specialized needs assessments have been conducted with each agency to determine training needs and gaps, and further trainings have been scheduled to continue to address emerging staff training needs.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The Department continues to actively direct and closely monitor MA project activities. Additional adjustments to program design and funding for project components will be made on an on-going basis to ensure best use of the available resources in accomplishing overall objectives.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the project. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

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